

**AMENDMENT****Amendment(s) to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph [0035] on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] The comparator 28 processes detected acoustic activity by comparing the magnitude of the output signal of the first microphone 14 with the reference voltage level  $V_{ref}$  to produce a signal 39 having two states. These two states will be further described subsequently when discussing Table 1. The voltage level of  $V_{ref}$  is selected generally based upon specific circuit values, and typically is set to equal the voltage produced by the first microphone 14 when the desired acoustic source 12 is at the maximum distance (under conditions of normal use) from the microphone 14. It will be recognized however, that the level of  $V_{ref}$  may be selected based upon other factors, including, the expected noise level in the environment, the types of sounds generated by the acoustic source 12, the relative distance between the ~~microphone 13~~ microphones 14 and 22 from the acoustic source 12, the type of microphone 14 utilized, and/or other factors. If, for example, the microphones 14 and 22 are implemented in the headset 25 shown in FIG. 2, or the handset 27 shown in FIG. 3, then the relative distance between the acoustic source 12 (e.g., the speaker's mouth) and the microphones 14 and 22 can be determined.